

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Health and Sanitary Conditions in Crihalma	DATE DISTR.	20 March 1953
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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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General

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1. Crihalma occupies an area of 1½ square kilometers. In 1952, the village had a population of 1,000. The population was decreasing gradually. A slow exodus of the population toward the cities, particularly Bucharest, was taking place. There was very little traffic through the town; it was connected by railroad to Stalin (Brasov), Fagaras and Sighisoara. No airfields were nearby.

Community Health Problems

2. From 1900 until 1945, the birth rate was about 7 or 8 per 1,000. It then rose to 9 or 10 per 1,000, and in 1950-1952 it was 8 per 1,000. There were many marriages in the immediate postwar period. Each family usually had one or two children.
3. Since 1900, the death rate has averaged about 10 per 1,000. The infant mortality rate was about 80 per 1,000. One reason for this high figure was the presence of about 10 families of gypsies whose babies were exposed to the very unhygienic living conditions of their people. Fifty percent of all deaths in the village were the result of old age. People lived regularly to the age of 70 to 85; women usually lived longer than men. Other causes of death were heart disease, infant mortality, tuberculosis, and cancer. Hypertensive vascular disease was also an important cause of death.

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4. The resistance of the populace to disease was very low because of a combination of work, great moral pressure, and bad food. In the last eight years, three villagers have died from hypertension; two women died from post-partum hemorrhage. There has been one death from typhoid in the last five years; no deaths have occurred from cholera, typhus, plague, yellow fever, leprosy, smallpox, malaria, or any type of dysentery. One person died of tuberculosis, and one other was seriously affected by it. In 1944, six children died from the same unspecified disease, presumably of bacillary origin. Only measles and scarlet fever were considered endemic.

#### Water

5. There was no public water system in the village. The houses in town and the small rural dwellings, known as gospoderia, usually had a well in the yard. This well was approximately 10 m. deep, and the water supply depended on the amount of rainfall. The water had a high calcium content and was very hard. There were several wells in the center of town which had very good potable water. Most of the people obtained their drinking water from these wells. The water from the wells in the back yards was given to the animals or was used for washing. The wells in the center of the town have recently been fitted with pumps and the water has acquired a rubbery taste.

#### Food

6. There was only one store in the town. This served as a combination restaurant, grocery and inn. It was not inspected by a physician. It was fairly clean but was not hygienic as regards the washing of eating utensils.
7. The village had about 600 milk animals, both cows and water buffalo. The farmer had to give the State 200 to 300 liters of milk per year for each milk-giving animal owned, even if the animal did not supply milk. This tax could be and was arbitrarily increased at any time. The milk was brought to one State dairy located in the village where it was centrifuged; the lighter fraction was sent to Sighisoara where payment was made. All farmers drank milk and ate cheese morning and night with corn meal, as a regular diet. To my knowledge the cows in the village have never been tuberculin tested.
8. There were many cases of foot and mouth disease among the cattle.  brucellosis was also widespread.

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9. There were two cases of anthrax in the village; three men were infected by the disease from handling hides from the infected cattle.

#### Disposal System and Pest Control

10. The village had no sewage disposal system. Houses had either water closets or outhouses. These outhouses were frequently located near the family wells. The doctors never called attention to the need for separation of the outhouse from the well, nor did the farmers ever seek advice from them concerning the location of their wells.
11. In the winter, human excreta were regularly used as fertilizer for the gardens in the village. This job was usually performed by a hired gypsy or a poor farmer. Cattle manure and urine were also used to fertilize the fields.

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12. There was no special garbage collection. Each man had to keep his own dwelling clean. Garbage was usually thrown into a brook flowing through the town. The dead were buried. Dead animals were also buried.
13. The town had many flies and mosquitoes, but no malaria. Because of the large number of cats, there were very few mice and rats. There was no system of pest control in the village.

#### Medical and Hospital Facilities

14. In 1952, Crihalma belonged to the Cuculata [4556N-2516E] circumscription (district), but had formerly been subordinate to the Ungra [4559N-2516E], and also the Ticusul Vechiu [4556N-2506E] districts. The village had no physician; the people had to depend on the physician in Cuculata, the district city, for medical assistance. Patients were hospitalized in Rupea [4603N-2513E] or Sighisoara. The village had no supply of drugs; the nearest stock of drugs was in Rupea, 18 km. away.

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#### Local Health and Welfare Administration

16. The nearest Public Health Office was in Cuculata. This city had one physician who carried out the programs of the Ministry of Health.
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 Dr. (fnu) GRACINU had been district doctor but is now head physician
- 25X1 of the Racos [4605N-2533E] Raion.
17. There was an anti-TB dispensary at Cuculata which maintained good records on patients afflicted with tuberculosis. Venereal disease was no problem in the village. One death occurred from syphilis three years ago in a child who had been brought to town from Bucharest.
18. No maternity, child care or sanitation program was carried out. It was a common practice for mothers in the village to give their children opium to make them sleep. District doctors were constantly being changed, and the people had no desire to consult the public health doctor because they lacked confidence in him. He had no medical supplies available to him at his office. Reporting of communicable disease was regularly falsified. No immunizations were carried out in the village, other than smallpox vaccination for children.

#### Health

19. Health conditions and sanitation in Crihalma were poor. There was no local physician or hospital. There were no dentists and the people's teeth were poor. There have been two cases of psychiatric disease in the last 20 years. One was a suicidal manic-depressive. Accidents of a more serious nature in recent years include two drownings, and one death from lightning.

#### Miscellaneous

20. The village had a seven-year elementary school, but only one teacher; the years of schooling have now been reduced to four. Because of the anti-communistic attitude of the people, no progress was expected in the school system.

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21. The attached sketch /Enclosure A/ shows the general appearance of the village of Crihalma.

- Point #1 The house of the village official
- #2 The Orthodox Church
  - #3 The drinking water wells in the center of town
  - #4 The unhygienic slum section of town (gypsies)
  - #5 The school
  - #6 The animal cemetery
  - #7 The human cemetery
  - #8 The Communist center
  - #9 The community store, restaurant and inn
  - #10 The House of Culture and the theatre
  - #11 The grain mill

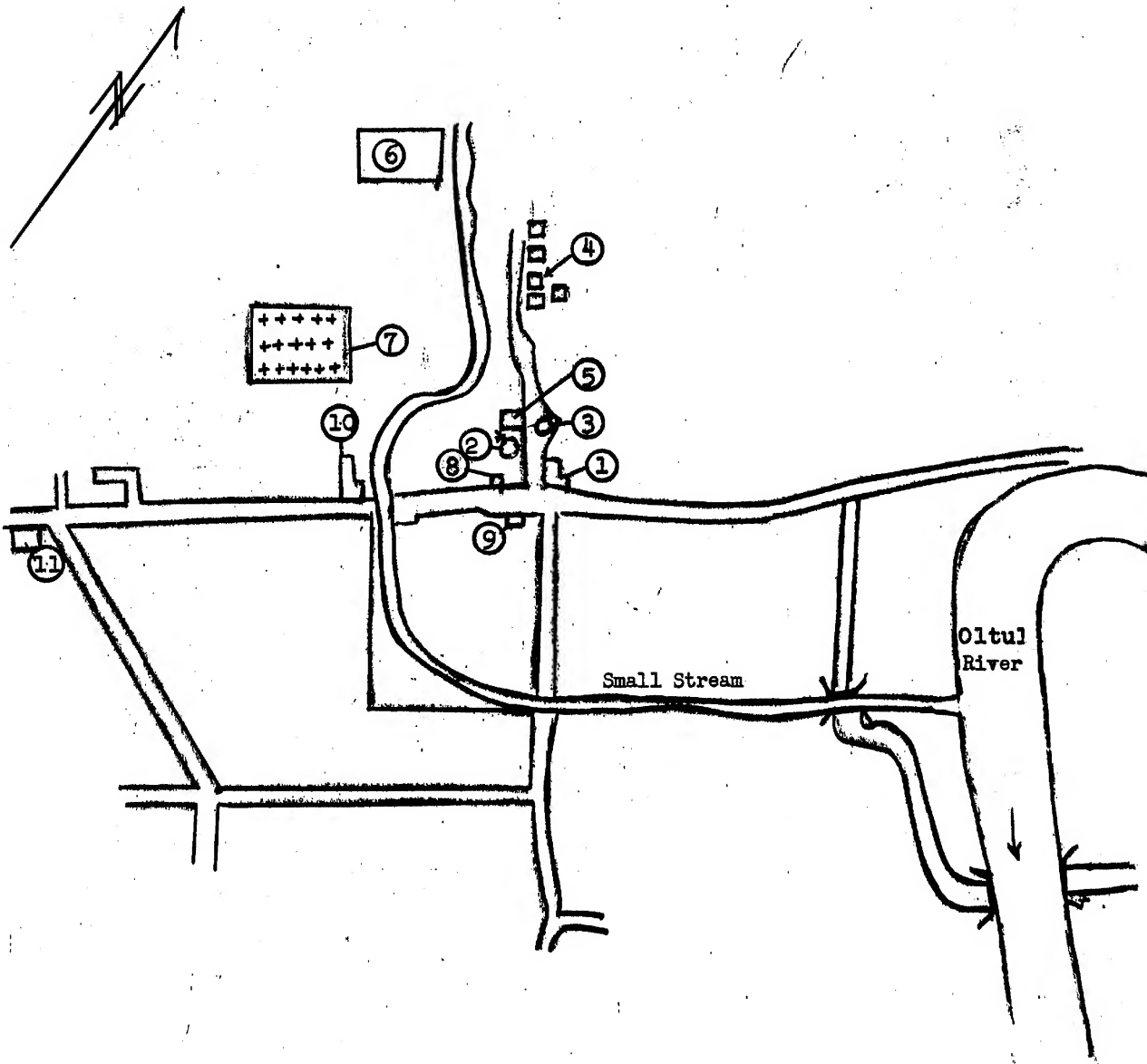
Enclosure A. Sketch of Crihalma

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ENCLOSURE A

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Sketch of Crihalma

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